



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC**

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**MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION**

**FROM: AFMOA/CC**

110 Luke Avenue, Room 405  
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**SUBJECT: Surveillance for West Nile Virus**

Arboviral infections are a threat to our troops. Of particular concern this spring is West Nile Virus (WNV) along the East Coast of the U.S. Current evidence indicates the virus has survived the winter in mosquitoes and has been found in several avian hosts this spring. The most immediate concern is documenting the continued presence and geographic spread of WNV. The US Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) and many state/local public health departments are making efforts to find the virus in wild bird and mosquito populations. Current AF recommendations include:

a. Alert installations in the eastern seaboard states of the history and current status of the outbreak. Ensure they maintain contact with local/state public health authorities and monitor available information resources (see Atch) to stay abreast of new developments.

b. Installations should maintain liaison with local/state/regional/CDC/DoD laboratories to facilitate sharing of available resources and information. The USAF POC is the Force Health Protection and Surveillance Branch of the Institute for Environment, Safety & Occupational Health Risk Analysis (IERA/RSRH).

c. Regional review of USAF installation mosquito surveillance programs. Installations should determine if mosquitoes could be shipped to state laboratories for virus screening. Mosquito specimens can also be shipped to IERA/RSRH for specific identifications, although currently no capability for virus screening exists in IERA. Installations should also be alert for signs of infections in birds and horses.

d. Review/develop a wide-area mosquito control plan in conjunction with local health departments. Installations should coordinate with local/state personnel to identify control options, including aerial spray, for their installation and surrounding areas.

Certainly not every base will be affected but increased awareness is a must. Care should be taken to avoid duplicating efforts or conducting unnecessary surveillance or testing. Additional information can be found at the websites listed on the attached page.

If you have any questions, my POC is Maj Steve Niehoff, AFMOA/SGOP, 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050, DSN 297-4286, or (202) 767-4286, e-mail [steve.niehoff@usafsg.bolling.af.mil](mailto:steve.niehoff@usafsg.bolling.af.mil).



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Attachment:  
West Nile Virus Websites

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Main page on arboviral diseases: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arboinfo.htm>

Fact sheets: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arbofac1.htm>

Detailed information on arboviral diseases: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arbdet.htm>

Arbovirus surveillance guidelines for the United States:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arboguid.htm>

The natural transmission and maintenance cycle of arboviral encephalitides:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/schemat.htm>

Arboviral Encephalitis Cases Reported, by Type, United States:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/arbocase.htm>

Questions and answers about West Nile virus:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/West\\_Nile\\_QA.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/West_Nile_QA.htm)

West Nile virus transmission cycle: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/WestNile\\_cycle.gif](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/WestNile_cycle.gif)

The Japanese encephalitis serocomplex of the family Flaviviridae:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/World\\_Flavivirus.gif](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/World_Flavivirus.gif)

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports on West Nile virus in the NY area:

Outbreak of West Nile-Like Viral Encephalitis -- New York, 1999. October 1, 1999 /  
48(38);845-9.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4838a1.htm>

Update: West Nile-Like Viral Encephalitis -- New York, 1999. October 8, 1999 /  
48(39);890-2.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4839a5.htm>

Update: West Nile Virus Encephalitis - New York, 1999. October 22, 1999 /  
48(41);944-946, 955.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4841a3.htm>

November 5, 1999

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